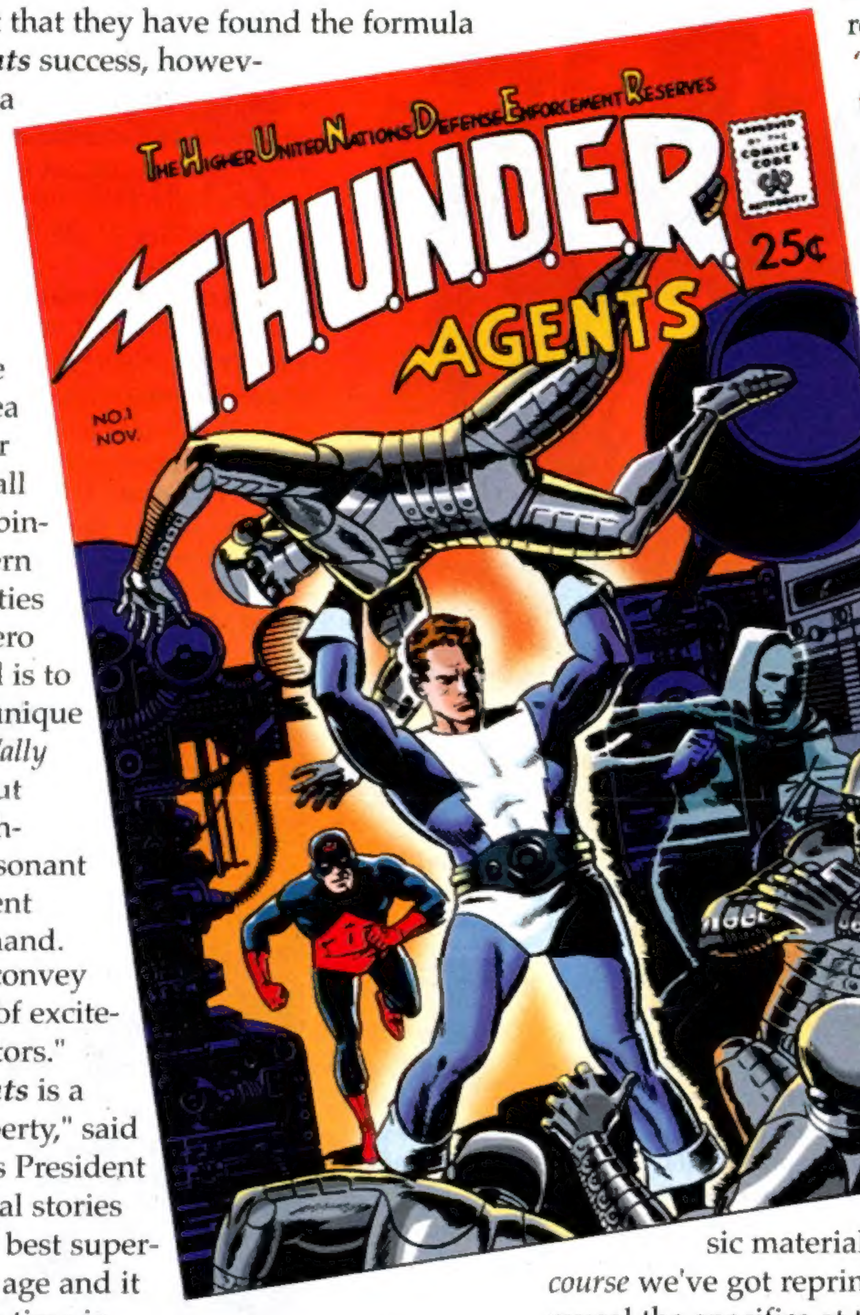
COMIC SHOP NEWS

THUNDER Rumbles Again!

For an all-too-brief period in the 1960s, ***THUNDER Agents*** one of the brightest stars in the comics firmament. An action-packed superhero-espionage adventure series featuring superlative work by such all-star creators as *Wally Wood, Reed Crandall, Steve Ditko, Larry Ivie, Gil Kane,* and *Mike Sekowsky,* the series was a fan-favorite for its short life.

Alas, Tower Comics exited the comics field after a few short years, leaving the title in comics purgatory. Over the years, a number of other publishers have attempted ***THUNDER Agents*** relaunches (most recently DC Comics, who offered two short-lived series written by *Nick Spencer).* But no one has managed to capture the dynamic look and feel of those original Tower Comics ***THUNDER Agents.***

IDW is confident that they have found the formula for ***THUNDER Agents*** success, however—and that formula begins with writer *Phil Hester,* artist *Andrea Di Vito,* and cover artists *Jerry Ordway* and *Dave Sim.*



"I'm thrilled to be working with Andrea on this book," Hester said. "His style hits all the right notes, combining the best of modern storytelling sensibilities with classic super hero dynamism. Our goal is to preserve what was unique about the original *Wally Wood*-helmed run, but inject it with the high-octane action and resonant character development modern readers demand. Andrea's work will convey to readers the sense of excitement we feel as creators."

"***THUNDER Agents*** is a classic, beloved property," said *Greg Goldstein,* IDW's President and COO. "Its original stories featured some of the best superhero art of the silver age and it was well ahead of its time in many areas of storytelling. As an example, it was the first mainstream comic book to feature the 'permanent' death of a major character."

"***THUNDER Agents*** always had a great premise:people whose day job was being government-employed superheroes," said IDW's Chief Creative Officer/Editor-in-Chief *Chris Ryall.* "That premise offers a resonant jumping-off point for some exciting new stories that will add to the great comics already left behind by both Tower and DC's recent run."

"I am very excited about the creative team assembled for the IDW launch of ***THUNDER Agents,***" *David M. Matthews,* Managing Director of Radiant Assets (owner of the property) said. "I have a great respect and appreciation for Phil and Andrea's work, and I'm ecstatic over having *Jerry Ordway* and *Dave Sim* contributing covers. It really doesn't get much better than that!"

"Let me tell you, *nobody's* more excited to be doing bona fide superheroes at IDW than I am," said editor *Tom Waltz,* who went on to tell ***CSN*** about the approach he and the creative team will take on the ***THUNDER Agents*** relaunch. "We're taking a bit of an 'if it ain't broken, don't fix it' approach, meaning we'll be skewing toward the 'old school' *Wally Wood* sensibilities that made ***THUNDER Agents*** a success in the first place, while keeping in mind (and utilizing) modern storytelling mechanics and techniques that are both effective and timely—especially plot-wise.

"We feel we've got a grade-A, top-notch team handling the chores in *Phil Hester* and *Andrea Di Vito,* which makes us confident we'll be producing and publishing something that old and new fans will wholeheartedly embrace. This is IDW, so a quality product is guaranteed—and if we can find the sales success to go with that, then all the better, I say!"

IDW's cover image depicts ***THUNDER Agents'*** "Core Four"—Dynamo, NoMan, Menthor, and Lightning. Will these be the same characters as the original Tower versions, updated for contemporary readers? "Absolutely," Waltz said. "Readers are going to find much that is familiar to them... as well as a few surprises in the mix. The core roles will exist—but remember, this is the ***THUNDER Agents,*** so who fills those roles can change in a heartbeat. And the core will be wrapped in all the scrumptious superhero action and political intrigue you can handle... and then some!"

Will the extended cast also include such mainstays as Iron Maiden, Raven, Warlord, Egghead, Weed, and the rest of the THUNDER Squad? "Iron Maiden, definitely!" Waltz said. "As for Raven and Warlord and other assorted goodies and baddies... well, I can only say Hester has some seriously entertaining mischief in the works!"

Since IDW has one of the strongest lines of reprint collections of any publisher in the field, is it safe to assume that IDW will be offering reprint volumes of the classic material as well? "Hey, this is IDW—*of course* we've got reprint plans," Waltz said. "I can't reveal the specifics at the moment, but needless to say, like all other IDW reprints, they are gonna rock like heavy metal on caffeine!"

Will IDW update THUNDER's mission and tactics for the 21st century, the same way they've done with ***GI Joe?*** "Without giving away spoilers, yes and no," Waltz said. "We'll have modern political concerns/situations—but we'll also have some fun, over-the-top solutions that pay respectful homage to the THUNDER adventures of yore. It's gonna be a mixed bag, but a damn good mix, no doubt about it!"

And now that we've mentioned ***GI Joe*** and ***THUNDER Agents*** in the same sentence, let's ask the next logical question: any chance there will be a ***THUNDER Agents/ GI Joe*** crossover in the foreseeable future? "That, of course, depends on Hasbro's short and long-term plans for ***GI Joe***—but, personally, I'd love *to* see it happen someday," Waltz said. "How kick-butt would that be?! Iron Maiden and Baroness in the same book? *C'mon*!"

THUNDER Agents #1 is slated for August release from IDW—and rest assured, you're going to hear *plenty* more about it between now and then!

by Cliff Biggers

With ***Avenging Spider-Man*** ending in June, you might have thought that Spidey would be destined to a future as a loner. Turns out that's not the case, though!

This July, fan favorite writer *Chris Yost* pairs up with artist *David Lopez* to launch ***Superior Spider-Man Team-Up #1.*** This all-new ongoing, part of Marvel's Superior Spider-Month, offers fans a whole new look into the world of Superior Spider-Man. The first issue brings him face to face with the Avengers.

"***Superior Spider-Man Team Up #1*** takes fans across the entire Marvel Universe and pits Superior Spider-Man against heroes and foes you wouldn't necessarily think he'd rub shoulders with," senior editor *Stephen Wacker* said "More and more people in the Marvel Universe are starting to sense a change in Spider-Man, and being able to see Chris put Spidey in those situations is going to have my inbox full of team-up requests!"

Superior Spider-Month also brings a new series by *Nick Spencer & Steve Lieber,* ***The Superior Foes of Spider-Man,*** which introduces readers to an upgraded Boomerang, Shocker, Speed Demon, the Beetle, and Overdrive. Following the embarrassing beating from ***Superior Spider-Man #1,*** can Boomerang and crew rebound to prove once and for all they can make it in the big leagues?

"This is a book about the working-class guys; these are not the Kingpins or Green Goblins or Doc Ocks of the world," Spencer told Marvel.com "These are the small-time crooks looking for a quick score so they can pay their alimony and get the loan shark off their back. A lot of the book is from Boomerang's perspective, and he's very much aware of that—and he sees this new Sinister Six he's formed as one last big shot at real money and real power. He's got a lot riding on this."

"The beauty of the Spider-Man world has always been that for all the web-slinging action and adventure, Peter Parker lives in the world outside your window and his villains reflect that," editor *Tom Brennan* said. "The new world of Superior Spider-Man demands a look at the lives, lies, schemes and dreams of his villains. Spider-Man's evolved – will his villains as well?"

If that's not enough Superior entertainment for you, Marvel also has ***Superior Carnage*** on schedule for a July premiere, a five-issue miniseries from *Kevin Shinick & Stephen Segovia.*

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

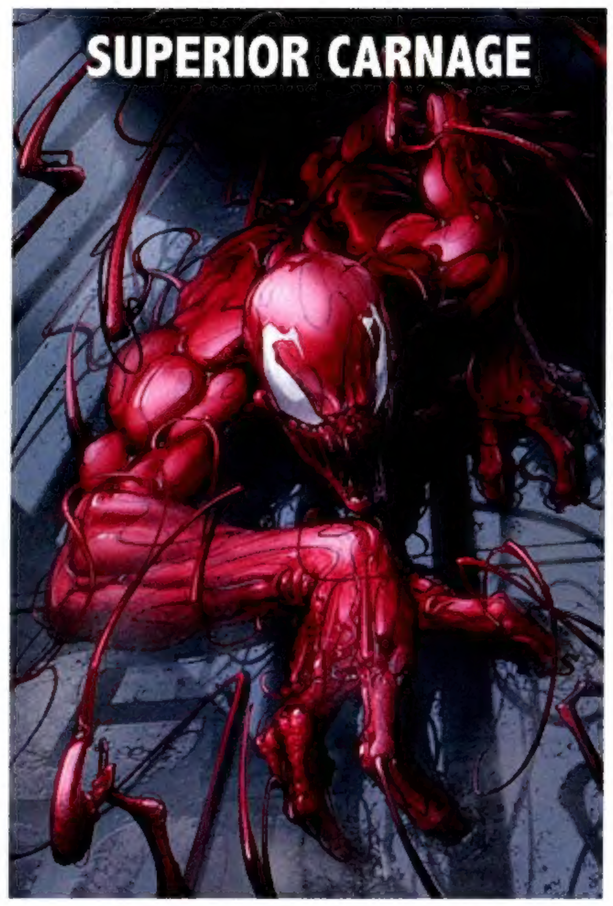
"This is a Carnage story that will send shivers down the backs of anyone who reads it," editor *Sana Amanat* said. "What Kevin and Stephen have planned for the character is unlike any Carnage story that's come before it, and surely will be one that will have fans demanding more of when it's all said and done. Want to know why people love Carnage so much? Jump on here."

"I'm really excited to be working on ***Superior Carnage***. It's very rare that you can say the words 'Like you've never seen him before!' and truly mean it," Shinick said. "But Stephen and I have been working on some great designs for what happens when the Wizard attempts to turn Carnage into an agent of evil the way the Avengers converted Venom for good! Plus now that Cletus Kasady has essentially been lobotomized, readers (and the Wizard) are going to encounter a monster very different from what they were expecting."

And of course, the centerpiece of Superior Spider-Month will be ***Superior Spider-Man #14*** by *Dan Slott & Humberto Ramos,* which follows Spider-Man straight to the steps of Shadowland as Otto Octavius decides it's time for him to clean up the city of New York... beginning with the elimination of Shadowland—all of it. With the Kingpin and Hobgoblin running crime throughout the city for far too long and nobody daring enough to take them down, the Superior Spider-Man takes matters into his own hands!

It's worth noting that ***Superior Spider-Man #14*** not only focuses on a new mission, it also introduces a new costume for Spider-Man!

"***Superior Spider-Man #14*** marks a drastic change for the character *and* the series," Slott said. "He's got new allies, a new look, and an all-new agenda. And we kick it off with a moment that will *literally* change the face of New York in the Marvel Universe! In *any* incarnation of *any* book with *any* character called Spider-Man, you have



never seen a Spider-Man operate like this before! Forget Superior Spider-Man *Month*! This chapter kicks off the Superior Spider-Man *Age*!"

CSNsider

•Back in ***CSN #1346,*** we told you about Archie Comics' forthcoming ***New Crusaders*** series. Well, the good news is that the book *is* forthcoming... but the bad news is that it's been delayed until the fall. Look for more about Archie's plans for the series in the near future.

•***Doctor Strange: Oath TP,*** collecting the five-issue Doctor Strange miniseries by Eisner-winners *Brian K. Vaughan & Marcos Martin,* is returning to comic shops in late May.

•***Metal Men Archives Volume 2 HC,*** originally slated for March release, has been pushed back to mid-June.

•Image has announced six new Image Firsts—$1 editions intended to offer new readers an affordable way of sampling the first issues of popular Image series. The six include ***Bedlam #1, Great Pacific #1, Mind the Gap #1, Morning Glories, #1, Peter Panzerfaust #1,*** and ***Super Dinosaur #1.***

You Goat to Get This Comic!

Back in ***CSN #1347,*** we told you that a new ***Quantum & Woody*** series was in the works, courtesy of *James Asmus & Tom Fowler;* now we can tell you that the book is slated for July 10th release. The offbeat, eccentric series, originally created by *Christopher Priest & M.D. Bright,* focuses on Eric & Woody Henderson, once-inseparable adopted brothers who have grown up to become estranged siblings. Then a scientific accident changes *everything* for Eric and Woody... giving them a whole new purpose – and a perfectly legitimate reason to wear costumes and fight crime.

"Quantum and Woody are one of the most beloved superhero duos in comics. There's a rich history to draw on here and we have some very exciting things on deck for ***Quantum & Woody*** in 2013 and beyond," said Valiant Executive Editor *Warren Simons.*

"Since the day ***X-O Manowar #1*** hit shelves, everywhere we've turned, fans have been demanding that Quantum and Woody step back into the spotlight," ***Quantum & Woody*** editor *Jody LeHeup* said. "James, Tom and Jordie are delivering a smart, heart-filled take on the team that will be central to the new Valiant Universe, and one that honors the spirit and bravado of what came before."

"In all of comics, there's no other book that mixed style and substance quite like ***Quantum & Woody***. I was willing to literally *kill* someone for the chance to write the relaunch for the new Valiant Universe," *James Asmus* said. "***Quantum & Woody*** isn't (just) a superhero book – it's action-comedy, it's family drama, it's a boys-meet-goat tale that tugs at the heartstrings."

And you'll get to experience it for yourself on July 10th!

Dis-Incorporation

Who could possibly replace *Grant Morrison* on ***Batman, Incorporated?*** After all, both incarnations of the series have been built entirely on Morrison's complex metafictional view of Batman's history and mythos.

As it turns out, *no one* can replace Morrison on ***Batman, Incorporated!*** When Morrison and artist *Chris Burnham* wrap up their run in July's ***Batman, Incorporated #13,*** the title will come to an end. As for the contents of this final issue—well, DC offers only one brief sentence: "Batman saves the world and loses everything."

Back to Press

•***Age of Ultron #2 2nd Printing*** (FEB138446), featuring a variant cover by *Bryan Hitch,* in stores 5/1.

•***Age of Ultron #3 2nd Printing*** (FEB138542), featuring a variant cover by *Bryan Hitch,* in stores 5/15.

•***All-New X-Men #9 2nd Printing*** (FEB138445), featuring a variant cover by *Stuart Immonen,* in stores 5/1.

•***Amazing Spider-Man #700 4th Printing*** (FEB138444), featuring a variant cover by *Ryan Stegman,* in stores 5/1.

•***Deadpool Killustrated #3 2nd Printing*** (FEB138543), featuring a variant cover by *Michael Del Mundo,* in stores 5/15.

•***East of West #1 2nd Printing*** (FEB138443), in stores this week.

•***Harbinger #0 2nd Printing*** (FEB138429), in stores 5/1.

•***Hawkeye #8 2nd Printing*** (FEB138447), featuring a variant cover by *David Aja,* in stores 5/1.

•***My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic #2 3rd Printing*** (FEB138475), in stores 5/8.

•***Nova #2 2nd Printing*** (FEB138449), featuring a variant cover by *Ed McGuinness,* in stores 5/1.

•***New Avengers #4 2nd Printing*** (FEB138448), featuring a variant cover by *Jock,* in stores 5/1.

•***Nowhere Men #1 5th Printing*** (FEB138440), in stores this week.

•***Polarity #1 2nd Printing*** (FEB138546), featuring a new cover by *Paul Maybury,* in stores 5/1.

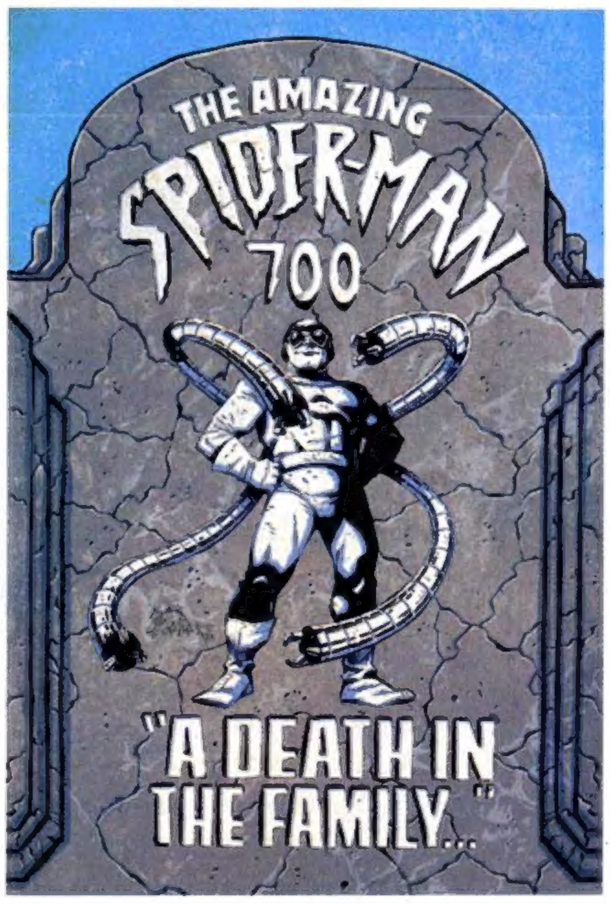
•***Sex #1 3rd Printing*** (FEB138534), in stores 5/1.

•***Superior Spider-Man #6 2nd Printing*** (FEB138450), featuring a variant cover by *Humberto Ramos,* in stores 5/1.

•***TMNT Ongoing #20 2nd Printing*** (FEB138535), in stores 5/15.

•***Transformers Fall of Cybertron #1 2nd Printing*** (FEB138477), in stores 5/8.

•***X-O Manowar #10 2nd Printing*** (FEB138333), in stores 5/1.



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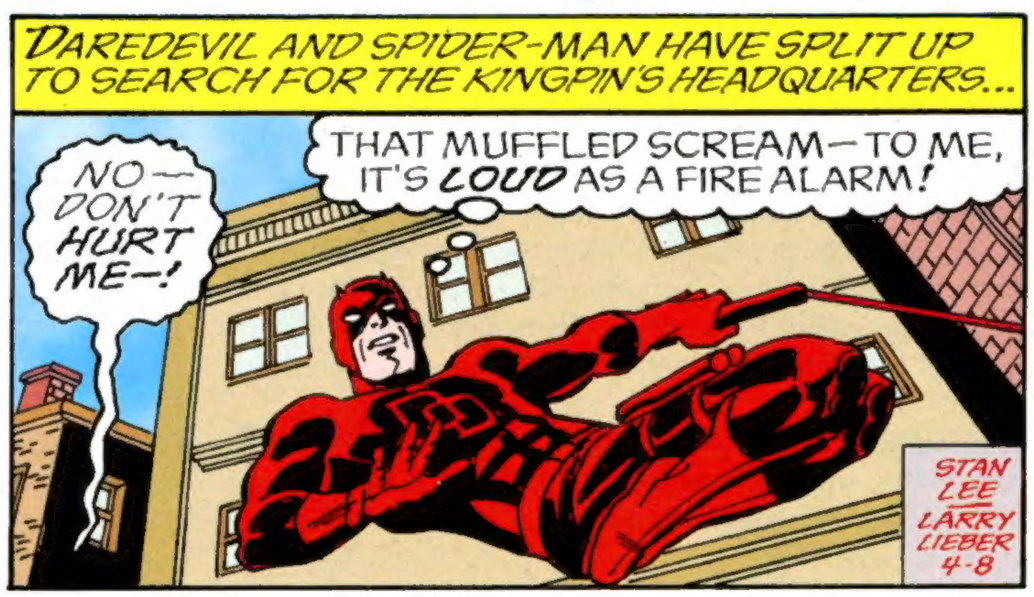
SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER


DAREDEVIL AND SPIDER-MAN HAVE SPLIT UP TO SEARCH FOR THE KINGPIN'S HEADQUARTERS...
NO— DON'T HURT ME—!
THAT MUFFLED SCREAM— TO ME, IT'S LOUD AS A FIRE ALARM!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 4-8

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The Coming War

Trinity War looms on the horizon, as the covers for ***Justice League #22, Justice League Dark #22,*** and ***Justice League of America #6*** reveal. The three covers fit together to form one massive image, with the Phantom Stranger, the Question, and Pandora prominently featured... that's the "Trinity" part. As for the War—well, DC's heroes seem to be providing all the combat and conflict one could hope for, don't they? Look for more details in next week's ***CSN*** regarding this major New 52 event!

Infantino Passes

Comics legend *Carmine Infantino* died on April 4th at the age of 87. His career as an artist dated back to the early years of the Golden Age (his first story appeared in ***USA Comics #3*** in 1942), but he found fame for his Silver Age work as illustrator of ***The Flash*** and the defining artist for Batman's New Look.

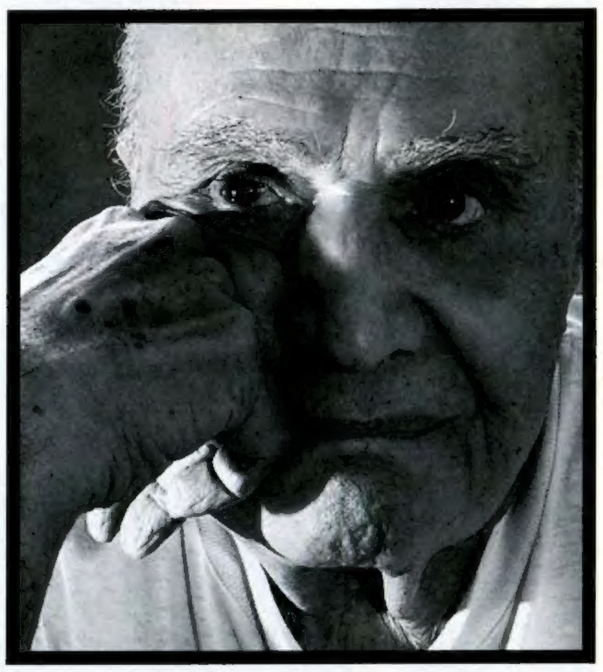
In the late 1960s, Infantino first became DC's cover designer, then art director, editorial director, and eventually publisher. Under his tenure, DC brought in talents such as *Dick Giordano* and *Jack Kirby*, and he moved artists such as *Joe Orlando* and *Joe Kubert* into editorial positions. DC also experimented with new concepts and boldly different takes on established characters, such as the *Dennis O'Neil/Neal Adams* ***Green Lantern & Green Arrow.***

When *Jenette Kahn* replaced him as publisher at DC, he returned to the drawing board, working for Warren, Marvel, and DC. In the 1990s, he went on to teach at the School of Visual Arts before retiring.

"The entire DC Entertainment family is saddened by the loss of *Carmine Infantino*," said *Diane Nelson*, DC Entertainment President. "His contributions to the comics industry and to DC Comics in particular are immense and impossible to quantify. Our thoughts are with his family, friends and fans during this difficult time."

Jim Lee, DC Entertainment Co-Publisher added, "Carmine was a legend. The number of classic covers he created are innumerable. His influence, reach and impact is humbling and will always live on."

"There are few people in this world that have had as much of an impact on the industry as Carmine," DC Entertainment Co-Publisher *Dan DiDio* said. "He bridged both the Golden and Silver Ages of comics, shepherding in some of the most successful periods in our history and setting the course of our characters that is still seen today. He will be greatly missed, but his legacy will remain forever."



Carmine Infantino has been a part of my cultural life since I first became a comic book reader, and I rank him alongside *Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko, Curt Swan,* and *Gil Kane* as one of the five artists who hooked me on comics and demonstrated to me just how visually exciting and captivating the comics medium could be.

One of the first comics advertisements that motivated me to hunt down the comic book it depicted was a DC house ad for ***Mystery in Space #65***. His fluid design for the alien assault vehicles, reminiscent of images of Martian vehicles from ***War of the Worlds***, was unforgettable; as soon as I saw this comic, I had to have it. That was the strength of *Carmine Infantino's* artwork; he created a world that, while distinctly comic-book in nature, was close enough to our own world that it seemed real enough to draw the reader in.

Shortly after that, his cover for ***Flash #123*** made this a book I had to own. Of course, I already recognized Infantino's art from ***The Flash***—it was one of my favorite comics because Infantino conveyed the essence of speed in a way that no other artist did. But who was this second Flash? What about these two worlds? Infantino's image of understated heroism, made this tale an essential bit of comics reading.

And when Infantino's art showed up on the cover of ***Detective #327***, offering a very different, contemporary version of my favorite hero, Batman--well, at that point, I was enthralled! Batman had never looked so real; as much as I loved the *Jack Schiff* era with its giant props and strange aliens, this was a Batman I could truly appreciate and admire.

I've had several chances to speak with *Carmine Infantino* over the years, and always found him to be engaging, personable, at times gregarious, and always generous with his time and his memories.

So few of comics' greats are left now--and with *Carmine Infantino's* passing, we lost one of the finest.

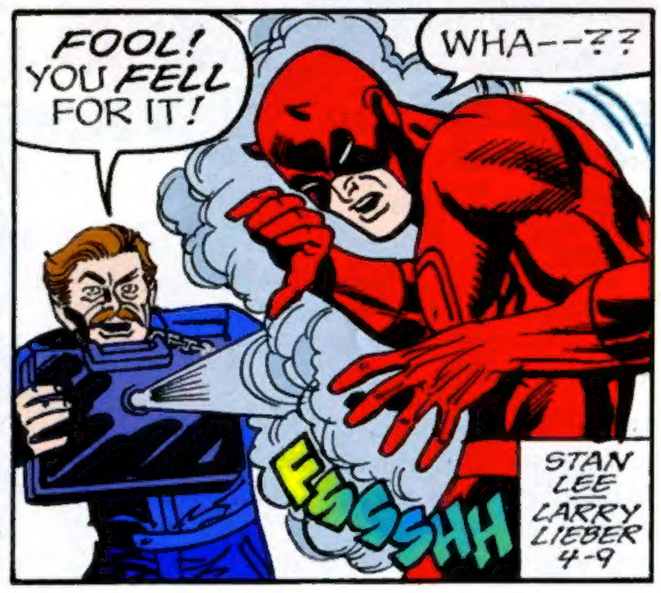
—*Cliff Biggers*

Gladir Passes

George Gladir, a veteran writer for Archie Comics who was best known as the co-creator of ***Sabrina the Teenage Witch,*** died on April 3rd at the age of 87. Gladir, who began working for Archie in 1959, continued to write for the publisher until his passing. In 2007, he was presented with the Bill Finger Award for Excellence in Comic Book Writing.

"*George Gladir* was one of the most important and influential writers at Archie Comics," Archie co-CEO *Jon Goldwater* said. "George and *Dan DeCarlo* created the iconic character Sabrina the Teenage Witch who is beloved by millions of fans around the world. He was a sweet and lovable man and we will miss him."

"I've had the pleasure and the honor of working and learning from George for 54 years,' Archie editor-in-chief and co-president *Victor Gorelick* added. "As an editor, George made my job easy. He was always current, understood the characters, was funny and always sent reference. The entire staff at Archie Comics was saddened by the loss of *George Gladir*. We'll all miss him."



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CSN TOP COMIC

AGE OF ULTRON #7 (OF 10)

Brian Bendis (W);
Brandon Peterson & Carlos Pacheco (A)
(Marvel MAR130600 $3.99)

AGE OF ULTRON #8 (OF 10)

Brian Bendis (W);
Brandon Peterson & Carlos Pacheco (A)
(Marvel MAR130603 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

In a last-ditch attempt to defeat Ultron, two Marvel heroes take it upon themselves to create an all-new Marvel Universe. But will it be any better than the one they left behind? And once the world is broken, is there any way to put things right again?

Why Should You Care?

Brian Bendis demonstrates that he's Marvel's unparalleled master of the event saga; what started out as ***Days of Avengers Future Past*** has become much more than that, and it's obvious that big changes are in store in the aftermath of this series.

BATMAN #20

Scott Snyder (W); Alex Maleev (A)
(DC MAR130201 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Batman meets a strange visitor in a tale that DC describes as "the team-up you've been asking for since the start of the New 52." By Rao, who could it be?..

Why Should You Care?

Once fans discover who the "strange visitor' in this story is, there's going to be *lots of* demand for this tale written by *Scott Snyder,* the writer of an upcoming comic entitled ***Superman Unchained...***

CLIVE BARKER'S NEXT TESTAMENT #1 (OF 12)

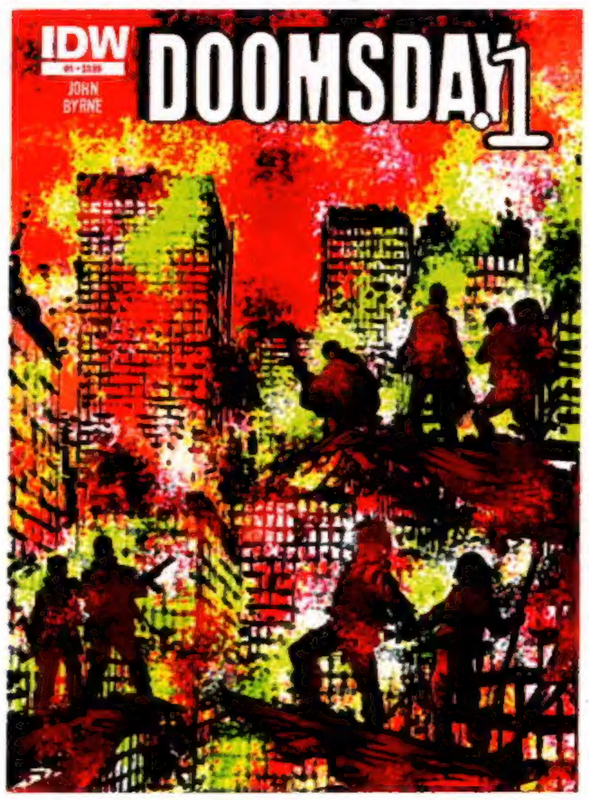
Clive Barker & Mark L. Miller (W);
Haemi Jang (A)
(Boom MAR130920 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Julian Demond, captain of industry, has left behind everything to begin a walkabout because he believes he's on a mission from God. While in the wasteland, he comes across a figure unlike any other, who calls himself Wick... and claims he *is* God. And their journey is just beginning...

Why Should You Care?

Clive Barker unleashes a wholly original creation envisioned expressly for comics. Not since the Barkerverse of the 1990s has Barker committed himself to the genre this intensely.



DOOMSDAY.1 #1 (OF 4)

John Byrne (W/A)
(IDW MAR130344 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Seven adventurers aboard the International Space Station watch in horror as most of the world is decimated by a monster solar flare. And their only choice is to return to the surface, and face whatever awaits them there...

Why Should You Care?

John Byrne, whose career began with ***Doomsday+1,*** revisits the apocalypse with ***Doomsday.1***—but Doomsday ain't what it used to be... thankfully, it's even better!

DREAM MERCHANT #1 (OF 6)

Nathan Edmondson (W);
Konstantin Novosadov (A)
(Image MAR130450 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

Haunted by recurring dreams, a boy named Winslow is hunted by mysterious beings and protected by an old traveler. Soon Winslow will realize that what is in his dreams is what the rest of the world has been made to forget. Unfortunately, there are strange entities who will stop at nothing to make Winslow forget as well...

Why Should You Care?

Nathan Edmondson, creator of such Image hits as ***Activity, Who Is Jake Ellis?, Where Is Jake Ellis?,*** and ***Dancer,*** does it again with a fascinating SF tale.

GREEN LANTERN #20 (WRATH)

Geoff Johns (W);
Doug Mahnke & Christian Alamy (A)
(DC MAR130224 $7.99)

What's the Scoop?

Witness the final battle against the First Lantern and the Guardians in this extra-sized wrap-up to ***Wrath of the First Lantern.***

Why Should You Care?

Geoff Johns, the man who resurrected ***Green Lantern*** and propelled him from obscurity to DCU superstardom, wraps up his run with this extra-length issue... and you can rest assured that he's going out with a bang, not a whimper!

GREEN TEAM #1

Art Baltazar & Franco (W); Ig Guara (A)
(DC MAR130159 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Need financing for a project of global importance? Figure you could change the world if you just had the funding? Then you need to get in touch with the Green Team!

Why Should You Care?

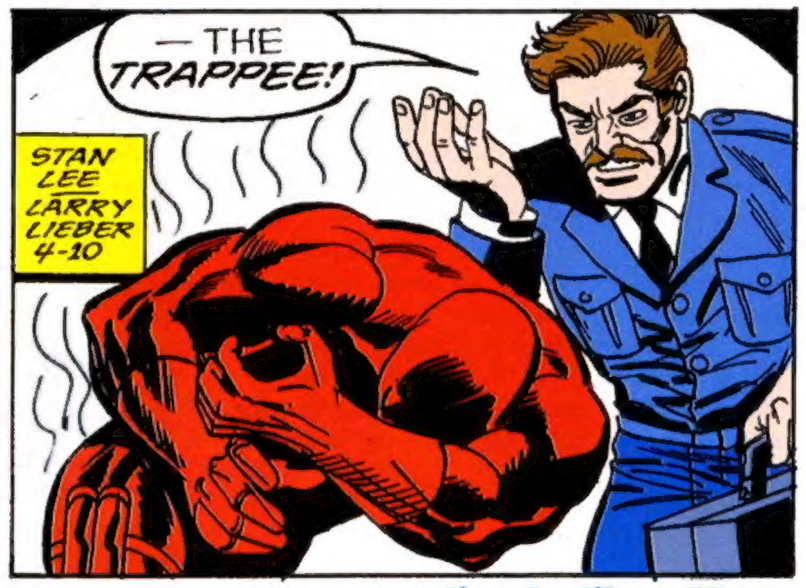
Art Baltazar & Franco leave their Johnny DC projects behind as they venture into the New 52 DCU with this upbeat, energetic tale of trillionaires who are determined to use their wealth for the greater good.

GRIMM #1

David Greenwalt & others (W); Jose Malaga (A)
(Dynamite MAR131015 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Detective Nick Burkhardt, the most recent descendant of a long line of guardians known as the Grimms, continues to protect humanity from the legendary beings known as the Wesen, assisted by his human partner and a reformed werewolf.



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CS: MAY

HARBINGER WARS (VU) #2 (OF 4)

Joshua Dysart & Duane Swierczynski (W); Clayton Henry (A)

(Valiant MAR131316 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The three-way war heats up as Toyo Harada strives to take control of Project Rising Spirit's newly-freed psiot children, Bloodshot struggles to thwart Harada, and Peter Stanchek and the Renegades head right into the heart of the conflict.

Why Should You Care?

Valiant's first multi-title crossover continues to lay the groundwork for Big Things in the Valiant Universe—including the new Valiant introduction of HARD Corps!

JUSTICE LEAGUE #20

Geoff Johns (W); Ivan Reis (A)

(DC MAR130173 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

A revelation about Pandora's Box could destroy Superman and Wonder Woman's relationship.

Why Should You Care?

Trinity Wars is coming... and *Geoff Johns* is laying the groundwork for 2013's New 52 event storyline with this Prologue tale.

KICK-ASS 3 #1 (OF 8)

Mark Millar (W); John Romita Jr. (A)

(Marvel/Icon MAR130713 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Kick-Ass and Justice Forever set out on the most important mission of their crimefighting careers: breaking Hit-Girl out of jail. But costumed heroes have been outlawed, which means that they've having to dodge both the cops *and* the criminals.

Why Should You Care?

Mark Millar & John Romita Jr. bring the ***Kick-Ass*** saga to an explosive end with this eight-part series that will have everyone talking!

MOVEMENT #1

Gail Simone (W); Freddie Williams (A)

(DC MAR130161 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Who defends the powerless? Who protects the homeless and poverty-stricken? Who brings justice to those who abuse their power? The Movement, that's who....

Why Should You Care?

Gail Simone & Freddie Williams bring class war to the New 52 Universe in this politically-themed series that's sure to have people talking.

RED HOOD AND THE OUTLAWS ANNUAL #1

James Tynion IV (W); Alejandro Barrionuevo (A)

(DC MAR130223 $4.99)

What's the Scoop?

Arsenal finally confronts Green Arrow, but it may be a short-lived reunion as someone from their past has targeted them both.

Why Should You Care?

At last, we'll find out the truth behind the Arsenal/Green Arrow feud... and along the way, we'll learn some secrets about Roy Harper's past!

SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN #9 NOW

Dan Slott (W; Humberto Ramos (A)

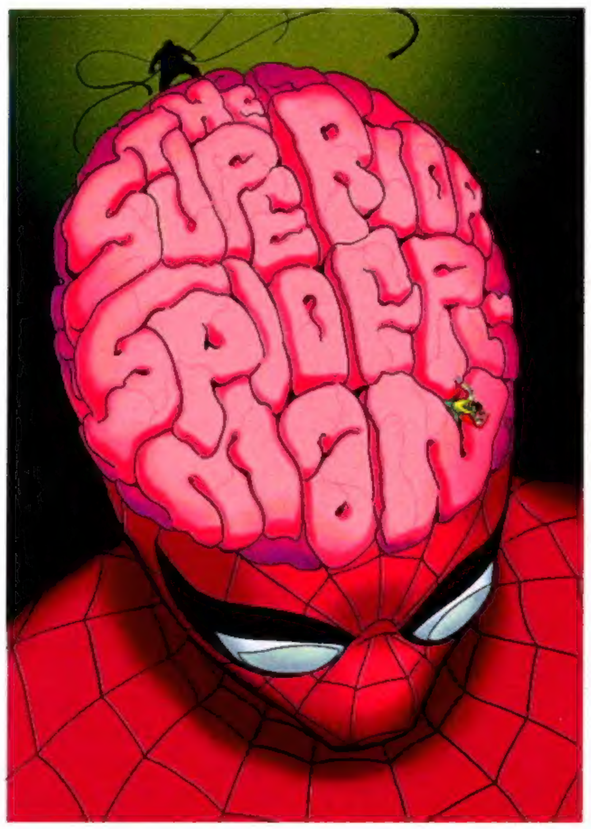
(Marvel MAR130615 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The time has come to see who will emerge as the one, true Superior Spider-Man.

Why Should You Care?

Love it or hate it, ***Superior Spider-Man*** has had everyone talking—and now *Dan Slott* launches the next phase of the Parker-Octavius struggle for supremacy. Will Spider-Man return to his former amazing glory? Does Peter have a ghost of a chance? We'll find out soon enough!



TEN GRAND #1

J. Michael Straczynski (W); Ben Templesmith (A)

(Image MAR130432 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Mob enforcer Joe Fitzgerald targeted the wrong guy when he took on a demonologist. By the time it was over, Joe was fatally wounded and his beloved Laura was dead. Then an angelic force came to him with a proposal: if Joe would work for their side, before bringing him back to life, they would allow him five minutes with Laura every time he was killed in a righteous cause...

Why Should You Care?

J. Michael Straczynski returns to monthly comics with this metaphysical noir drama—and who better to illustrate it that ***Fell*** co-creator *Ben Templesmith?*

UBER #1

Kieron Gillen (W); Canaan White (A)

(Avatar MAR130868 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Just when it looked like the German war machine was hopelessly devastated, the Nazi super-human experiments produce the ultimate war machine and change the direction of history. The Ubers are here... and the Allies have no counter-weapon!

Why Should You Care?

Acclaimed writer *Kieron Gillen* has made ***Uber*** one of the comics' most compelling alternate-history sagas. The introductory zero issue sold out on the day of release; don't let the first issue slip past you!

WAKE #1

Scott Snyder (W); Sean Murphy (A)

(Vertigo/DC MAR130295 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

When the Department of Homeland Security dispatches marine biologist Lee Archer to a secret underwater oilrig in the depths of the Arctic Circle, she is confronted with something truly miraculous... and terrifying.

Why Should You Care?

Superstar writer *Scott Snyder* launches another sure-to-be-hit Vertigo series, and he's joined by another major Vertigo talent: artist *Sean Murphy,* whose ***Punk Rock Jesus*** became one of Vertigo's most buzzworthy sleeper hits!

X #1 (OF 4)

Duane Swierczynski (W); Eric Nguyen (A)

(Dark Horse MAR130008 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

When brutal vigilante X finds himself in the crosshairs of both the underworld *and* the police, it look like his only ally might be a muckraking blogger.

Why Should You Care?

No one is much more adept at brutal noir action-adventure than *Duane Swierczynski,* who has not only written several noir novels but has also chronicled the high-impact exploits of Marvel's The Punisher and Valiant's Bloodshot—and now he adds a new hired gun to that list!

X-MEN #1 NOW

Brian Wood (W); Olivier Coipel (A)

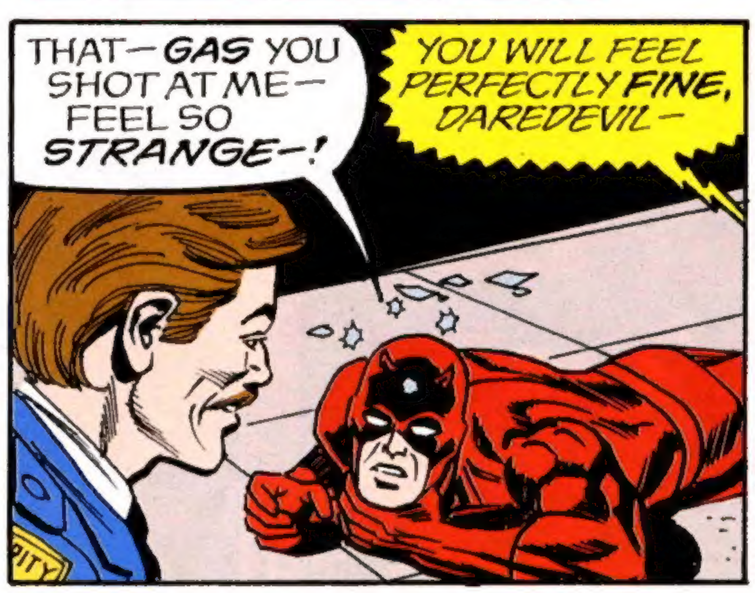
(Marvel FEB130492 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Storm, Kitty Pryde, Rogue, Jubilee, Rachel Grey, Psylocke—maybe the title ***X-Men*** isn't exactly gender-appropriate for the latest addition to the Marvel NOW mutant franchise.

Why Should You Care?

Brian Wood & Olivier Coipel launch a very different X-book... and in this case, the X refers to their mutant abilities *and* their chromosomes!



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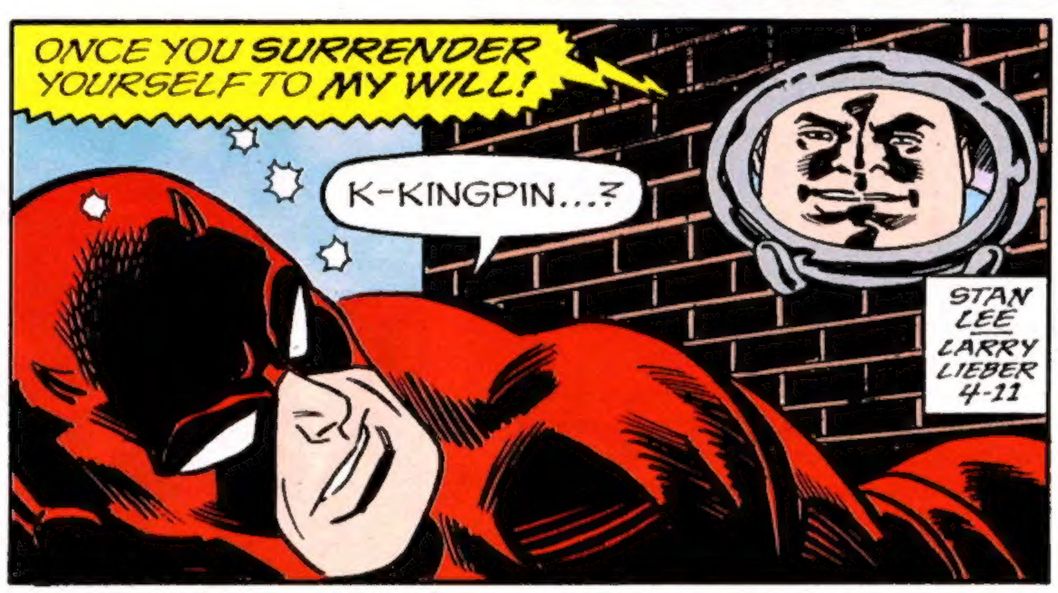


Hot Commodities:
May's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

DC BATMAN AUTOMOBILIA FIGURE COLLECTORS MAGAZINE #7 BATMAN #575 BATMOBILE
(Eaglemoss FEB131237 $20.00)

DC BATMAN AUTOMOBILIA FIGURE COLLECTORS MAGAZINE #8 ANIMATED SERIES BATMOBILE
(Eaglemoss FEB131238 $20.00)

Eaglemoss adds a pair of Batmobiles to its growing line of 1:43-scale zinc alloy die-cast vehicles: the Batmobile from ***Batman #575*** and the Batmobile from ***Batman: The Animated Series***.

DC COMICS AQUAMAN ARTFX+ STATUE NEW 52 VERSION
(Kotobukiya NOV121818 $39.99)

DC COMICS BATMAN ARTFX+ STATUE NEW 52 VERSION
(Kotobukiya DEC121704 $44.99)

Kotobukiya's distinctive line of high-quality 1:10 scale vinyl statues captures the majesty and energy of DC's mightiest heroes, adding a touch of Japanese stying and design to distinguish them from other DC statues. Each figure has magnetized feet attaching it to the base without pins or other intrusive supports.

GREEN LANTERN 1:1 SCALE POWER BATTERY PROP W RING
(DC Collectibles FEB130261 $199.95)

The first in an all-new line of power batteries, featuring a brand new finish, this Green Lantern power battery and ring will make a stunning addition to any desk or display shelf.

MAN OF STEEL FAORA 1:6 SCALE ICONIC STATUE
(DC Collectibles FEB130258 $129.95)

MAN OF STEEL JOR EL 1:6 SCALE ICONIC STATUE
(DC Collectibles FEB130256 $129.95)

MAN OF STEEL SUPERMAN 1:6 SCALE ICONIC STATUE
(DC Collectibles FEB130255 $129.95)

MAN OF STEEL ZOD 1:6 SCALE ICONIC STATUE
(DC Collectibles FEB130257 $129.95)

In case you haven't heard, there's a Superman movie coming up—and here are four statues that will help you to remember! DC Collectibles has joined with Gentle Giant to produce this line of high-quality statues that capture the look of the film's cast, all done with the eye for detail that has made Gentle Giant a fan-favorite!

WALKING DEAD MICHONNE RESIN STATUE
(Image MAR130599 $459.99)

Robert Kirkman & Todd McFarlane present this high-quality 14" tall sculpture depicting Michonne in all her sword-wielding glory. This statue also includes a detailed rotating display base with gruesome action at every angle. And if that's not enough, each sequentially numbered piece is hand-signed by Kirkman and will include a Certificate of Authenticity hand-signed by McFarlane.

Collected Cool:
May's Best Reprint Editions

ABSOLUTE TOP TEN HC
(DC SEP120255 $99.99)

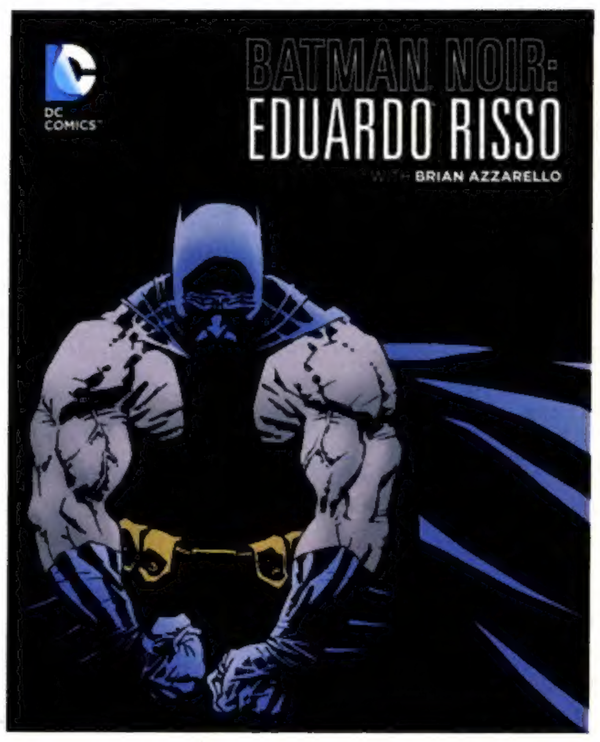
This oversized, slipcased deluxe edition of *Alan Moore & Gene Ha's* series collects ***Top Ten #s 1-12***, ***Smax #s 1-5***, ***Top Ten: The Forty-Niners***, and a story from ***America's Best Comics Special #1***.

AVENGERS COMPLETE COLLECTION BY GEOFF JOHNS TP VOL 1
(Marvel MAR130750 $29.99)

Lots of today's comics readers don't know that *Geoff Johns* spent some time at Marvel writing ***The Avengers*** and other related titles—and that he worked with (among others) his ***Shazam!*** partner, *Gary Frank!* Now Marvel is collecting Johns' stories from ***Avengers #s 57-63***, ***Vision #s 1-4***, ***Thor #58***, and ***Iron Man #64***—so if you love his work at DC, you can see how he brought that same energy and passion to the Marvel Universe!

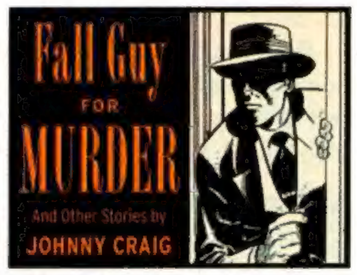
BATMAN NOIR BY EDUARDO RISSO DELUXE ED HC
(DC JAN130307 $24.99)

The ***100 Bullets*** team has done quite a number of Bat-tales as well—and here's a collection of many of those rarely seen pages from ***Batman #s 620-625***, ***Flashpoint: Batman—Knight of Vengeance #s 1-3***, ***Wednesday Comics #s 1-12***, and a story from ***Batman: Gotham Knights #8***.



EC'S JOHNNY CRAIG: FALL GUY FOR MURDER HC
(Fantagraphics MAR131164 $28.99)

Fantagraphics' line of artist-focused anthologies continues with this collection of 22 classic horror and suspense tales by one of EC's most elegant illustrators, *Johnny Craig*.



JACK KIRBY OMNIBUS HC VOL 2
(DC DEC120331 $39.99)

The second volume in DC's collection of miscellaneous Kirby tales includes work from ***Black Magic #s 1-9***, ***First Issue Special #s 1, 5, & 6***, ***Kung Fu Fighter #3***, ***Sandman #s 1-6***, ***DC Comics Presents #84***, ***Super Powers v1 #s 1-5 & v2 #s 1-6***, and ***Kobra #1***.

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA CHRONICLES TP VOL 1
(DC FEB130223 $14.99)

The concept of the ultimate superteam got a Silver Age refresher in these tales from ***Brave & Bold #s 28-30*** and ***Justice League #s 1-3*** pitting DC's heroes against Starro, Kanjar Ro, and other malevolent menaces, courtesy of *Gardner Fox & Mike Sekowsky*.

KORAK SON OF TARZAN ARCHIVES HC VOL 1
(Dark Horse JAN130122 $49.99)

A couple of months ago, Dark Horse gave readers the first volume of *Russ Manning's* ***Tarzan***. Now they complement it with this collection of Manning's ***Korak #s 1-6***, featuring the son of Tarzan.

NEW TEEN TITANS OMNIBUS HC VOL 3
(DC JAN130313 $75.00)

This hefty compendium includes ***Tales of the Titans #s 45- 61 & 66-67***, ***New Teen Titan #38***, ***New Teen Titans v2 #s 1-6***, and ***Secret Origins Annual #3***, produced by the acclaimed team of *Marv Wolfman & George Pérez*.

NEW WARRIORS OMNIBUS HC VOL 1
(Marvel DEC120725 $99.99)

This doorstop of a volume includes the classic ***New Warriors*** run by *Fabian Nicieza & Mark Bagley*, along with ***New Warriors #s 1-26***, ***Annual #s 1 & 2***, ***Thor #s 411-412***, ***Avengers #s 341-342***, a whole batch of Marvel Annuals... they're all in here!

SCOTT PILGRIM COLOR HC VOL 3 (OF 6)
(Oni JAN131224 $24.99)

It's the same ***Scott Pilgrim*** you know and love, only it's completely remastered and presented in full color courtesy of writer/artist *Bryan Lee O'Malley*.

SHOWCASE PRESENTS SUPERMAN FAMILY TP VOL 4
(DC DEC120338 $19.99)

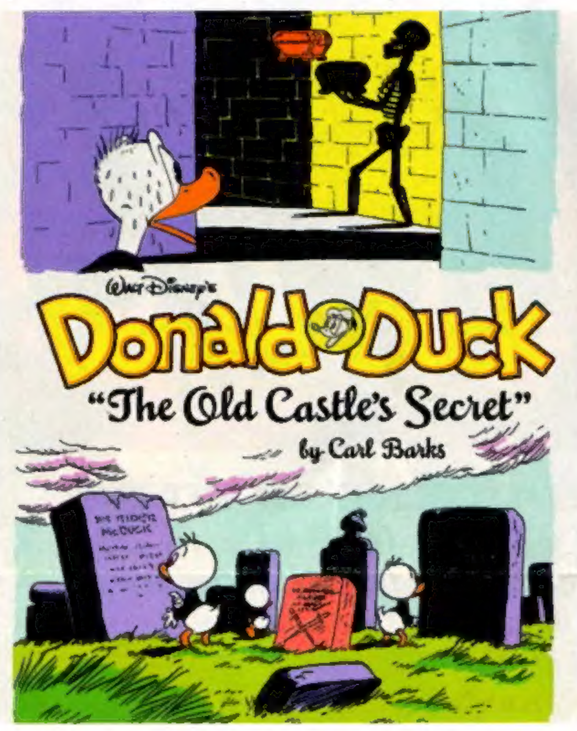
Enjoy another collection of those zany Silver tales of Jimmy and Lois, taken from ***Superman's Pal Jimmy Olsen #s 45-53*** and ***Superman's Girlfriend Lois Lane #s 17-26***.

TALES OF BATMAN: ARCHIE GOODWIN HC
(DC JAN130312 $39.99)

Comics legend *Archie Goodwin* is well represented in this impressive collection that includes ***Detective #s 437-443 & Annual #3***, ***Legends of the Dark Knight #s 132-136***, and much more.

TARZAN BY RUSS MANNING: NEWSPAPER STRIPS HC VOL 1—1967-1970
(IDW MAR130427 $49.99)

And here's this month's *second* collection of classic *Russ Manning* ERB material—this one featuring more than 750 Manning strips originally published between 11/67 and 5/70, with assists by *Bill Stout*, *Mike Royer*, and *Dave Stevens*.



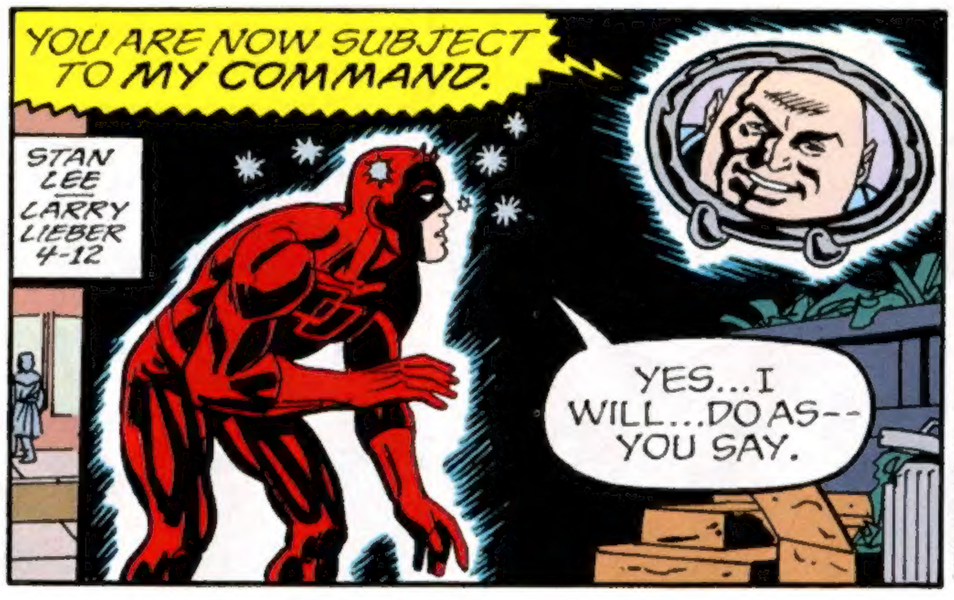
WALT DISNEY'S DONALD DUCK HC VOL 1: CASTLE'S SECRET
(Fantagraphics MAR131167 $28.99)

Fantagraphics' line of tastefully recolored, carefully restored tales by *Carl Barks* continues with this volume collecting the acclaimed"The Sheriff of Bullet Valley," "Old Castle's Secret," and much more.

Check 'Em Out: Comics You Should Be Reading!

ADVENTURE TIME ANNUAL #1
(Boom MAR130950 $4.99)

Adventure Time has become a full-fledged comics sensation, so it's only logical that Boom would invite other creators to join in the fun. This extra-length annual features new material by *Roger Langridge*, *Derek Fridolfs*, *Dustin Nguyen*, and others.



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ALL STAR WESTERN #20

(DC MAR130246 $3.99)

Time-tripping Booster Gold causes problems for Jonah Hex in this unpredictable tale that's anything *but* your ordinary Western. And if that's not enough of a New 52 mashup for you, this issue also presents a look at a never-before-seen 19th Century Stormwatch team!

ARCHER & ARMSTRONG (VU) #0

(Valiant MAR131324 $3.99)

Think you know the epic story of Gilgamesh? Think again! Turns out that Armstrong, the Eternal Warrior, and Timewalker played some uncredited roles in that famous tale!

BATTLESTAR GALACTICA #1

(Dynamite MAR131009 $3.99)

The masters of cosmic comics, *Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning,* relaunch ***Galactica*** with a story that finds Apollo and Starbuck lost in an alternate reality with no Galactica and no way of returning home. It's the classic ***Galactica*** as you know and love it—and it's obvious that Abnett & Lanning love it just as much!

BENNY BREAKIRON HC VOL 1: RED TAXIS

(PaperCutz MAR131234 $11.99)

Smurfs creator *Peyo* introduces a considerate little boy who possesses super-powers... so long as he doesn't catch a cold! Don't miss this charming tale with every bit as much all-ages appeal as ***The Smurfs.***

BLACK BAT #1

(Dynamite MAR131000 $3.99)

Brian Buccellato & Ronan Cliquet launch a modern take on the classic Golden Age pulp-noir hero as a brash defense attorney survives torture and blindness to become a costumed hero determined to make amends for the wrongs of his past.

EARTH 2 #12

(DC MAR130185 $2.99)

James Robinson misses equal parts Earth 2 and Apokolyps for this tale that brings the heroes of Earth 2 face to face with unspeakable evil... but they've also got Dr. Fate on their side!

EDGAR ALLAN POE'S FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER #1 (OF 2)

(Dark Horse MAR130053 $3.99)

Richard Corben... Edgar Allan Poe... Roderick Usher... a gothic tale within a tale... somber settings... moody ghost stories... talk about the perfect match of creator and concept!

GOOD RIDDANCE: GRAPHIC MEMOIR OF DIVORCE GN

(Abrams FEB130660 $17.95)

Cynthia Copeland presents an honest, poignant, and sometimes funny graphic memoir about suffering through—and surviving—divorce.

IRON MAN #258.1

(Marvel MAR130673 $3.99)

IRON MAN #258.2

(Marvel MAR130675 $3.99)

IRON MAN #258.3

(Marvel MAR130676 $3.99)

IRON MAN #258.4

(Marvel MAR130677 $3.99)

Welcome back, 1980s! We've missed you! *David Michelinie & Bob Layton* return to Iron Man for the four-part Armor Wars 2!

PERSIA BLUES SC VOL 1

(NBM MAR131230 $12.99)

Minoo Shirazi is a rebellious young Iranian woman caught in between life in Iran and life in midwestern America. But there's another side of Minoo—an adventurous side that revels in a fantasy world where aspects of modern America and ancient Persia blend together into a strange amalgam. *Dara Naraghi & Brent Bowman* blend contemporary multicultural live and mythic fantasy in this fascinating graphic novel.

SMALLVILLE SEASON 11 SPECIAL #1

(DC MAR130262 $4.99)

The Martian Manhunter steps into the spotlight in this extra-length standalone adventure that also stars the Smallville Universe versions of Batman and Nightwing.

WE CAN FIX IT GN

(Top Shelf MAR131303 $14.95)

What would you do if you had a time machine? Change history? Witness the pivotal events of human civilization? Invest in hundreds of copies of ***Action Comics #1?*** Well, if you're *Jess Fink,* you share the wisdom of your life experience with your younger self. (And couldn't we *all* benefit with a guiding visit from our future selves?)

FYI: A Must-Have Addition to Your Reference Library

BEST OF ALTER EGO TP VOL 2

(TwoMorrows MAR131308 $19.95)

Roy Thomas presents more rarely-seen gems from his original ***Alter Ego #s 1-11,*** published between 1961 and 1978. Roy may have been a fan-favorite writer and a master editor, but he never gave up being a fan of comics—which is why ***Alter Ego*** has always been the ultimate fanzine!

DAN SPIEGLE: A LIFE IN COMIC ART SC

(TwoMorrows MAR131309 $14.95)

John Coates documents the professional life and career of one of the field's most skilled illustrators whose work has graced hundreds of comics from Gold Key, Marvel, DC, Eclipse, Dark Horse, and others.

FROM HELL COMPANION SC

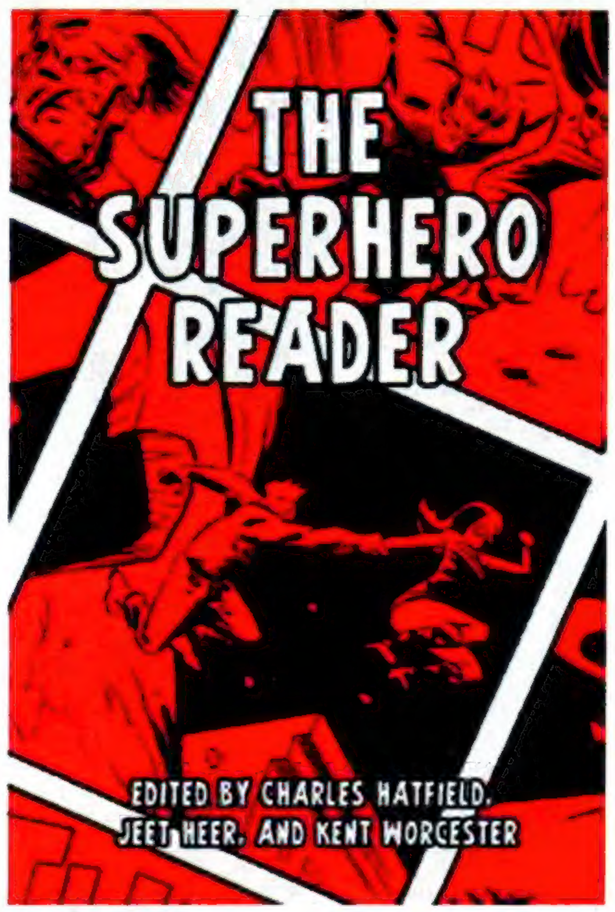
(Top Shelf MAR131301 $29.95)

If you're a fan of *Alan Moore* or the original ***From Hell,*** you won't want to miss this fascinating collection that includes Moore's original scripts and sketches for the landmark graphic novel, with copious annotations, commentary, and illustrations by *Eddie Campbell,* along with Campbell's first-hand accounts of the project's decade-long development, complete with photos, anecdotes, disagreements, and wry confessions.

SUPERHERO READER SC

(University Press of Mississippi FEB131251 $30.00)

Editors *Charles Hatfield, Jeet Heer, & Kent Worcester* assemble a fascinating collection of essays and book excerpts by major writers on comics and popular culture. This is the latest in a series of insightful comic book studies from the University Press of Mississippi, which is rapidly becoming the go-to source for major critical commentaries on comics and culture.



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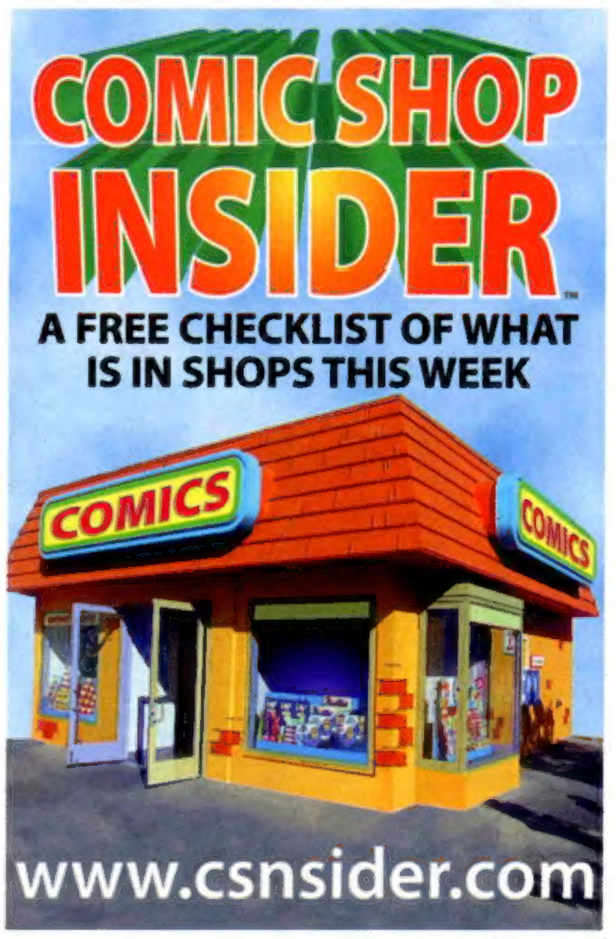

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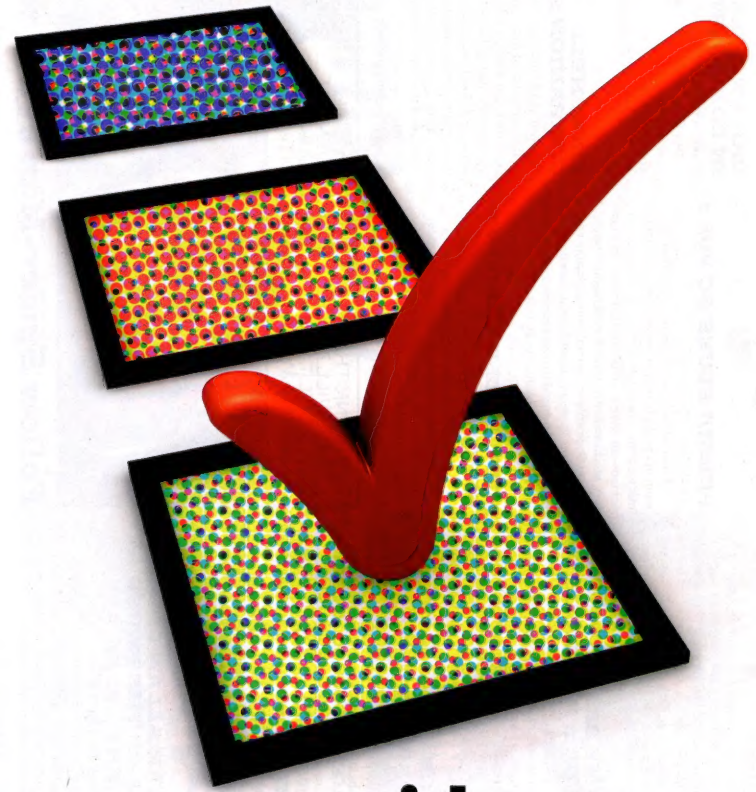
Follow *Spider-Man* every week in *Comic Shop News*!

Everyone knows that if you want to reach the real customers who visit the shops every week, there's no better way than *Comic Shop News*. Knowing that, we have been asked by publishers and retailers to find out more about you. We've posted a brief survey at www.csnsider.com and we'd love to have your responses included! The entire survey should take three to five minutes to complete, and your participation will help us and the comics publishers better know their readership. All responses are anonymous, so your privacy is protected; we'd appreciate your helping us plan *CSN*'s future!



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